

Tuesday, 13 October 12:30– 14:00

Philippines Room

Healthy diets from climate-smart food systems

#4

ORGANIZERS

CGIAR (Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers)

CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)

EAT Initiative

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDN)

Abstract: How can we ensure people have enough nutritious food to thrive in the face of Climate Change?

This joint event convened by CGIAR and partners will seek to demonstrate through lively debate that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) simply cannot be achieved without agricultural science and its practical application. Facilitated by the CEO of the CGIAR Consortium, the event will host four high-level panelists from diverse sectors to examine:

The impact of agriculture as one of the biggest contributors to Climate Change as well as one of the biggest solutions

Intrinsic links between research into nutrition, local diets, climate change and achievement of the United Nations SDGs. The panelists and an audience of diverse stakeholders - including policy makers, donors, media, and civil society - will debate the most effective solutions to ensure a food-secure future. With a 50/50 mix of open discussion and panel debate there will be no PowerPoint presentations; initial presentations from panelists will be no more than 3 minutes. An outcome document will be drafted post-event capturing conclusions which will feed into a broader recommendation document intrinsically linking agricultural science with achievement of the UN SDGs.

KEYWORDS: CGIAR: science for a food-secure future , Healthy Diets From Sustainable Food Systems , Climate Smart Agriculture ,

Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Languages: EN

Refreshments

Summary: It is acknowledged that innovation in agro-food systems is key to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but unrealistic to think that we can tread familiar paths in response to recent statistics.

Facilitated by Frank Rijsberman, CEO of the CGIAR Consortium, CGIAR hosted, in collaboration with partners, this high-level event that was designed to inform stakeholders and facilitate and strengthen partnerships to achieve sustainable development through innovative agriculture and nutritious diets in the face of increasingly complex climatic challenges.

It was structured to promote an exchange of expert opinion to engage and involve the audience in examination and debate of three key issues:

- Intrinsic links between research into nutrition, local diets, climate change and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- The challenge of achieving a food-secure future from climate-smart food systems
- Our readiness to deliver the solutions necessary in the face of these progressively complex global challenges

There were no PowerPoint presentation and there was a strong mix of open discussion and panel debate. The event leveraged the communications powerhouse of all 31 CGIAR entities, as well as partners' extensive communications reach.

It was standing room only from the start of the event, with more participants joining as the event progressed. See photos [here](#).

Prof. Walter Willet excellently represented a health and nutrition perspective that differs greatly from traditional narratives on the need to increase cereal production by at least 60% – but to focus on healthy food from sustainable food systems instead, which would require a transformation of food systems. Professor Willet highlighted ongoing work into the investigation of dietary factors, using epidemiologic approaches, in the cause and prevention of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other important conditions.

CGIAR, through CEO Frank Rijsberman, highlighted new two closely linked SDSN, EAT and CGIAR initiatives. A white paper on integrated indicators of healthy diets from sustainable food systems that kicked off advocacy for integrated indicators to monitor progress on the SDGs and their targets. And a proposal to develop a 'Global Food Database' and publish an annual EAT 'State of the Food System' report.

IFAD presented their [Recipes for Change project](#), and Chef Ska, an award-winning Chef from Lesotho, and one of the Chefs involved in the IFAD initiative, described her personal involvement, learning experiences, and engagement with the people she cooks for and the local community.

CIRAD presented a sustainability perspective and made the link to the soil carbon sequestration proposal the French government, with CGIAR as a key partner, launched in December during the COP21 climate talks.

There was animated discussion, pushing the event well over the 90 minutes set, with participants asking numerous questions to the panel, recognizing the narrative combined a focus health, food and sustainability – away from a focus on cereals, focusing on quite different ideas of food and food systems, often quite unlike the normal approaches.

Main take-home messages:

- A re-thinking of the whole food system is required, with an emphasis on nutritious food from climate-smart approaches.
- Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 Targets, we count 62 that are related to the food system. Health, food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability are critical to achieving the new development agenda.
- Nutrition is complex, there are - in addition to much else including the risks posed by Climate Change - many local and cultural considerations to consider 'one size doesn't fit all'
- Breaking through our silo-ed approaches could start with selecting integrated indicators to monitor progress. These indicators seek to recognize and maximize synergies between food, health and environmental sustainability, and drive progress towards both population health and environmental sustainability.
- We must commit to help achieve the food related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and in doing so help achieve healthy diets from a sustainable food system for all women, children and men.

'Next year at CFS, it would be good to have this topic on the main agenda, not solely as a side event!'

Mia MacDonald, Executive Director of Brighter Green, NYC, event participant